recurring expenditure in running of the Sainik schools. No such proposal has been received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Status of LCA Project

1384. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of LCA project; and

(b) by when it is likely to be inducted in Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) (i) The first LCA aircraft, called Technology Demonstrator—1' (TD-1), is in the final stages of ground testing and evaluation. This would be followed by the first flight which is likely to occur in the first half of this year.

(ii) The second aircraft, TD-2 is undergoing integration tests. Work on prototype vehicles (PV-1 to PV-5) has commenced and PV-1 is in the stage of structural assembly.

(b) On successful completion of the planned flight trials, LCA would enter the production and induction phase. According to current indications, the planned target for entry into operational service is likely to be in the period 2004-2005.